Sanseitō draft constitution English translation

Preamble:

Japan is a land blessed with fertile soil where rice ears ripen, a nation that has long worshipped myriad gods and ancestors, respected the laws of nature, and recognized the dignity of all living things. It has cultivated virtue, nurtured both literary and martial arts, preserved its traditional culture with unity of spirit, developed its industries, and built a harmonious society.

The Emperor, from ancient times, has ruled the nation eternally, cherishing the people, praying for their peace and happiness. The people, in turn, revere and respect the Emperor. The entire nation lives together helping one another like a family. The proper path of public authority and a form of politics centered on the people have been upheld as an unwritten constitutional order. This is the essence of Japan's *kokutai* (national polity) that continues to this day.

The livelihood of the people is sustained by ensuring the public good in society. This Constitution safeguards and strengthens the public interest as the foundation of rights—through education of mind and body, self-sufficiency in food, nurturing of domestic industry, and preservation of land and environment.

Moreover, our country has overcome many hardships and, as a state that was among the first in the world to advocate for racial equality, inherits the will of our forebears. Under this Constitution, we commit ourselves to a comprehensive defense of the nation and strive for national independence. At the same time, we respect the history and culture of all nations, pursue coexistence and mutual prosperity, and contribute to lasting peace.

The people of Japan, aspiring for prosperity for a thousand and eight thousand generations, declare their intention to bring true harmony to the world and hereby establish this Constitution.

Chapter 1: The Emperor

(The Emperor)
Article 1: Japan is a nation where the Emperor *shirasu* (reigns with benevolence), embodying the unity of Sovereign and people.
2. The Emperor presides over the traditional rites of the nation and serves as a symbol of national unity.
3. The Emperor is a sacred and inviolable being who prays for the happiness of the people.

(Succession to the Throne)
Article 2: The Imperial Throne shall be succeeded by a male heir in the male line (*dan-kei*

dan-shi), bearing the Three Sacred Treasures.
2. For the stable continuation of the Imperial line, the Imperial House shall, through its collective will, establish the *Imperial House Law*.
3. The State shall bear responsibility for ensuring the continued existence of the Imperial Family and the *Miya-ke* (collateral branches of the Imperial House).

(Powers of the Emperor)
Article 3: The Emperor shall issue imperial edicts and proclamations (*chokugo*) for the benefit of all citizens.
2. As the Head of State, the Emperor shall represent the nation and, under the responsibility of the Cabinet, may approve the following matters. However, in the case where a matter is repeatedly submitted by the Cabinet for approval, the Emperor shall give approval.

1. The Emperor shall appoint the Prime Minister, Ministers of State, the Speakers of the Houses of the National Diet, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
2. The Emperor shall promulgate the Constitution, laws, government ordinances, and treaties.
3. The Emperor shall convene the National Diet, dissolve the House of Representatives, and issue public notices of national elections.
4. The Emperor shall ratify treaties, grant full powers to diplomatic envoys, and receive state guests.
5. The Emperor shall authorize general amnesties, special pardons, commutations, stays of execution, and restorations of rights, and confer honors and decorations.
6. The Emperor shall also perform other important national acts as provided by law.

3. The position of *Regent* shall be held only by members of the Imperial Family, and shall exercise authority based on the Imperial House Law.

(2-8)

Chapter 2: The Nation

(The State)
Article 4: The State shall possess sovereignty and the authority to make independent decisions.

2. The calendar and era name (*gengō*) shall be determined by the Emperor.

3. The name of the country shall be "Japan," the national language shall be Japanese, the national anthem shall be *Kimigayo*, and the national flag shall be the *Nisshōki* (sun-mark flag).

4. All official documents must use the era name and the national language, and shall be written in language easily understood by the people.

(9-10)

(The People)
Article 5: The qualifications for citizenship shall be defined by law, based on the criteria that either the father or mother is Japanese, the individual has Japanese as their native language, and possesses a heart that cherishes Japan.
2. Citizens shall bear the duty to protect Japan for the sake of future generations.

(11-12)

(Public Interest)
Article 6: The State shall always maintain and uphold the rights of the people, as set forth in this Constitution, and the public interest (hereinafter referred to as "public good") in the conduct of national affairs.
2. The public good referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be defined throughout the following chapters and this Constitution as a means to secure the foundation of national life and the defense of the country.
3. Public officials have the duty to engage exclusively in the maintenance and enhancement of the public good.
4. The interests of individuals or organizations must be pursued with consideration for the public good, which includes health, safety, the environment, and culture, across future generations. Such pursuits must be conducted with due regard for the public good.

(13-15)

Chapter 3: The Life of the People

(Family)
Article 7: The family is the foundation of society, and its members shall assist one another with compassion.
2. Children are the treasures of the nation. Parents bear responsibility for the growth and education of their children, and the State shall supplement that responsibility.
3. Marriage shall be based on the union of a man and a woman, and the spouses shall share the same family name.
4. The home, local communities and schools shall cooperate to cultivate a sound spirit among the people.

(Fundamental Freedoms and Rights of the People)
Article 8: All people shall have the freedom to live with autonomy.
2. Citizens have the right to lead a healthy, culturally rich, and dignified life.

3. Rights come with duties, and freedom comes with responsibility. Rights and freedoms must not be abused.
4. All persons, corporations, and organizations operating within the country shall bear the obligation to pay taxes in accordance with the law.

(16-18)

(Education)
Article 9: The people shall have the right to receive an education that is based on developing the ability to learn and think independently.

2. The State must provide diverse options in compulsory education tailored to individual personalities and abilities.
3. Instruction in the national language and classical reading, history and mythology, moral cultivation (*shūshin*), martial arts, and civic participation shall be mandatory.
4. Educational materials shall respect historical imperial edicts such as the *Imperial Rescript on Education*, instill patriotism, and promote understanding of food and health, local festivals, notable historical figures, and traditional events.
5. School lunches must prioritize health, use local ingredients, and strive for domestic sourcing.

(19-20)

(Food and Basic Livelihood Infrastructure)
Article 10: Food supply must achieve complete self-sufficiency, centered on rice as the staple, including domestic production of seeds and fertilizers.
2. The State shall protect and foster agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and the industries and workers that form the foundation of the people's livelihoods.
3. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries must be respected as vital foundations of the nation, emphasizing harmony with nature, the preservation of health and culture, environmental stewardship, and food security.

(21)

(Health and Medical Care)
Article 11: The State shall be obligated to disclose all information related to public health—including the safety of pharmaceuticals, food additives, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms—to all citizens.

2. Citizens shall have the freedom to choose the medical care they need and shall not face discrimination based on that choice.
3. The State shall give consideration to the physical and mental health of the people through

diet, sleep, and moderate exercise, and shall strive to prevent illness and provide fundamental treatment.

(22)

(Environmental Conservation)
Article 12: Citizens must recognize that nature is the source of life, protect ecosystems, and endeavor to pass on a beautiful homeland to future generations.
2. The State shall formulate a national land-use plan that avoids overconcentration of the population and supports the economic development of all regions, while also establishing systems that ensure mutual support in times of disaster.

(Political Participation)
Article 13: Citizens shall have the right and the duty to participate in politics.
2. Citizens aged 16 and older shall have the right to vote, and those aged 18 and older shall have the right to run for office.
3. The State must ensure that information about electoral candidates is communicated fairly and clearly to the public through the media and other means.
4. The deposit required to stand for election shall not exceed one-tenth of the national average annual income. However, the right to stand for election must not be abused

5. Candidates and elected officials shall have their real names, naturalization status, financial records, and related information publicly disclosed.

(23-24)

(Local Autonomy)
Article 14: To protect regional customs, faiths, and cultures and to reflect the will of residents in politics, local governments shall be established, with their structures defined by law.
2. Local governments may, based on the autonomous will of their residents, elect their own heads and assembly members, enact ordinances, and execute budgets.
3. The State shall take measures to ensure that local autonomy is not subject to interference from foreign entities or international organizations.

Chapter 4: National Defense

(Purpose)
Article 15: The State shall establish a comprehensive policy for national defense (*kuni-mamori*), with the purpose of preventing direct or indirect aggression and crises, safeguarding the safety of the people and national industries, preserving national independence, and passing this legacy to future generations.

(Information and Counterintelligence)
Article 16: The State has the duty to provide the public with a wide range of diverse information, including that concerning foreign affairs.

2. News organizations shall bear the obligation to report on national policies fairly and without bias.
3. Media and communications-related operations must be conducted either by the State or with domestic capital.
4. The State shall establish an agency to prevent foreign espionage and shall take all necessary measures.
5. Public officials must not disclose information obtained through the course of their duties.

(25-28)

(Economic Security)
Article 17: For the purpose of national defense, the State shall foster domestic industries and promote the development and application of domestic technologies and research.
2. The State bears responsibility for protecting domestic intellectual property and safeguarding the rights of creators.

(Resources)
Article 18: The extraction and development of resources shall be carried out primarily within national territory.
2. For resources that cannot be sourced domestically, the State shall endeavor to procure them in a diversified manner, avoiding over-reliance on any single country.
3. Electricity, gas, water, and other energy supplies shall be managed either by the State or through domestic capital.

(29-30)

(Foreign Nationals and Foreign Capital)
Article 19: The State, based on its sovereignty, shall have the unrestricted right to determine the conditions of entry and residence of foreigners.
2. Land is public property and must not be transferred to foreigners or foreign capital.
3. Authority over real estate, corporations, and important assets held by foreigners or foreign capital shall be subject to public disclosure, and may be confiscated or repurchased by the State following procedures prescribed by law, with just compensation.
4. Foreign nationals shall not be granted political rights. Naturalized citizens may not hold public office until after three generations have passed. The conditions for naturalization shall be defined by law, based on understanding of national character and public safety.

(31-35)

(Self-Defense Forces)
Article 20: The State shall maintain armed forces for self-defense (hereinafter called the "Self-Defense Forces").
2. The highest command authority over the Self-Defense Forces shall reside with the Prime Minister.
3. The deployment and withdrawal of the Self-Defense Forces shall require approval by the National Diet. However, in urgent and unavoidable circumstances, such approval may be obtained retrospectively.
4. Matters concerning the Self-Defense Forces and military personnel shall be defined by law.
5. A military court shall be established, with its composition and procedures defined by law.

(36-37)

(Preservation of Territory, etc.)
Article 21: The State shall preserve its territory, territorial waters, airspace, and other areas under its sovereignty.
2. Foreign military forces shall not be permanently stationed within the country.
3. Foreign military bases, as well as military and police facilities, shall not be established within the country.

(38-39)

Chapter 5: Governance Structure

(Principles of Governance)
Article 22: Governance shall respect the *kokutai* (national polity) and be conducted for all citizens in the spirit of harmony (*wa*).
2. Legislative power belongs to the National Diet, executive power to the Cabinet, and judicial power to the courts.
3. All public officials must be Japanese nationals.

(40)

(Political Parties)
Article 23: Political parties shall be operated according to the will of their members, and their requirements shall be prescribed by law.
2. Funding for political parties may only be provided by the State or its citizens.
3. The State shall fairly support the activities of political parties and provide citizens with information about political parties.
4. The State shall fairly support the activities of political parties and provide citizens with information about political parties.

(The National Diet)
Article 24: The National Diet shall consist of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors, and shall have the authority to nominate the Prime Minister, enact laws, approve treaties, approve the budget and final accounts, and conduct investigations of national affairs.
2. The term of office for members of the House of Representatives shall be four years, and for the House of Councillors six years; half of the House of Councillors shall be elected every three years.
3. Decisions of the Diet shall require the presence of at least one-third of the total members of each house and the approval of a majority of those present in each house.
4. The Cabinet shall convene the Diet and hold a session once each year. However, if one-fourth or more of the members of either house request it, the Diet shall be convened within thirty days.
5. Other matters related to the Diet shall be prescribed by law.

(The Cabinet)
Article 25: The Cabinet shall be composed of the Prime Minister and Ministers of State, and shall oversee the general administration of national affairs, executing laws and the budget.
2. The Prime Minister shall be chosen from among the members of the National Diet, and shall have the authority to appoint and dismiss Ministers of State, nominate the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and command the Self-Defense Forces. However, the dissolution of the House of Representatives shall only occur as provided in paragraph four.
3. Except in cases where national security is at risk, the Cabinet shall provide the National Diet and the people with information concerning national affairs upon request.

4. When a vote of no confidence is passed by the House of Representatives, the Cabinet shall resign en masse, and may, at its discretion, dissolve the House of Representatives. In case of urgent necessity during the dissolution period, the House of Councillors shall have special powers as prescribed by law.
5. Other matters concerning the Cabinet shall be determined by law.

(The Courts)
Article 26: The courts shall resolve legal disputes and determine the constitutionality of laws, treaties, orders, and ordinances.
2. Judges shall perform their duties impartially based on law and conscience.
3. The courts shall have the authority to establish rules concerning court procedures and internal discipline.
4. Judges shall lose their position if any of the following apply:

- They reach a prescribed age or become unable to perform their duties due to physical or mental incapacity.
- They are removed from office through impeachment by the National Diet or by national review as prescribed by law.

(Evaluation Committee)
Article 27: The State shall establish a committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Evaluation Committee") to assess enacted laws, implemented policies, expenditures, and the fairness of elections, and shall publish its findings to the public.
2. The Evaluation Committee, with the purpose of securing the public interest, may advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
3. Matters concerning the appointment of members and other aspects related to the Evaluation Committee shall be determined by law.

(National Referendum)
Article 28: When at least one-third of the total members of either house request it during the deliberation of a bill, or when the Cabinet deems it necessary, the Cabinet may hold a national referendum. The National Diet shall make its decision based on the referendum results.
2. For a law that has been enacted, if a petition with the agreement of a certain number of eligible voters is submitted within a specified period, the Cabinet may hold a national referendum. If the majority in the referendum approve, the National Diet must reconsider the law.

Chapter 6: Finance

(Currency Issuance Authority)
Article 29: The State shall have the authority to issue currency denominated in yen.
2. The issuance of banknotes may be entrusted to a central bank supervised by the State pursuant to law.

(Finance)
Article 30: Finance shall aim to promote economic welfare and shall principally procure funds through currency issuance.
2. The budget shall be prepared by the Cabinet and approved by the National Diet. The final accounts shall be audited by the Board of Audit and evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, with both made public annually and approved by the Diet.
3. The State's financial condition shall be presented to the public in a concise and clear manner for all accounts.
4. The Imperial Household's finances shall be managed by the Cabinet according to policies determined by the collective will of the Imperial Family.
5. Local governments shall, in principle, finance themselves through tax revenue, with any shortfalls covered by the national budget.

6. Local governments must allocate budgets to preserve and promote Japan’s traditional culture.

(42)

(Taxation)
Article 31: Taxation is not the sole source of revenue. The setting and modification of taxes and social insurance premiums must consider the livelihood of the people and be based on law.
2. The ratio of taxes and social insurance premiums to national income (the national burden ratio) shall, except in special circumstances, not exceed 40% of national income.

(43)

Chapter 7: Important Matters

(Supreme Law)
Article 32: This Constitution is the supreme law of the nation and embodies Japan’s national character. Any laws, treaties, orders, ordinances, or other acts that contradict it shall have no legal effect.
2. Decisions or recommendations from international organizations shall have no effect if they conflict with this Constitution or Japan’s unique customs.

(44)

(Amendments)
Article 33: Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by a majority vote of the total members of each house, and shall be approved by a majority of valid votes in a national referendum as prescribed by law.
2. The amended Constitution shall be promulgated by the Emperor.

1. The constitution’s enactment is celebrated, and the national anthem is included.

2. *Shirasu* is an archaic word meaning to widely understand the people's actual conditions and govern Japan accordingly.

3. *Kunmin ittai* means the unity of the Emperor and the people in governing the country.

4. The Daijōsai and Niiname-sai are official state rituals.

5. *Sacredness* is an attribute of the monarch, who issues edicts and presides over rituals as one with the divine spirits of the imperial ancestors.
6. Imperial edicts (*shōchoku*) do not create legal rights or obligations but are issued for the public good.
7. *Saika* means approval at the monarch's discretion, including a veto right (known as *eto* or veto). Repeated petitions can only be refused once.
8. A Regent acts on behalf of the Emperor when the Emperor is a minor, ill, or otherwise temporarily incapacitated.
9. The calendar includes the solar calendar introduced in Meiji 6 (1873) and earlier lunar calendars.
10. This is a response to demands for expanded political participation, such as lowering the voting age and national referendums.
11. Normative requirements, but simply having no hostile intent toward the country is sufficient.
12. This should be understood as a duty to cooperate in national defense efforts.
13. The use of the term "kenri" (rights) emphasizes "reasonable" or "just" rights, as opposed to a simple translation of "right" — a nuance highlighted by Yukichi Fukuzawa's translations.
14. The state must ensure a minimum level of public welfare as the foundation of rights.
15. Public welfare takes precedence over private interests; rights and freedoms are recognized under the umbrella of public welfare.
16. An interpretation as comprehensive freedoms.

17. Refers to basic rights including social rights to live with dignity.
18. In the Japanese Constitution, rights and freedoms are limited by public welfare to prevent abuse; this constitution also prohibits abuse of rights and freedoms consistent with public welfare.
19. Education aims to prepare citizens to responsibly and actively participate in future political life by making informed judgments and solving problems.
20. The establishment of diverse options such as free schools within compulsory education.
21. Refers to achieving 100% or more self-sufficiency in food production.
22. A lesson from COVID-19 vaccination practices that were effectively forced nationwide, leading to discrimination and reflection.
23. Political participation duties do not directly require voting or party membership but encourage actions suited to one's abilities and opportunities, similar to the labor duties under the Japanese Constitution.
24. This aims to prevent political interference through naturalization of foreigners.
25. Nowadays, various fields such as information, economy, and industry relate to national defense, requiring comprehensive coordination.
26. Although there are broadcast law regulations now, newspaper and internet reporting remain unregulated.
27. Refers to activities involving newspapers, TV, radio, satellite broadcasts, mail, telephone, internet, SNS, and cloud services.
28. Counterintelligence agencies are state organizations tasked with blocking foreign espionage, propaganda, and covert operations.

29. Important minerals like oil, coal, and rare metals should prioritize domestic procurement or possibilities thereof.
30. This is a lesson and reflection from depending on a single country (United States) for oil during the Greater East Asia War.
31. Corresponds to the McLean case Supreme Court decision on the same matter.
32. Includes both free and paid transfers; aims to regulate land acquisition by foreigners and foreign capital.
33. Refers to rights concerning domestic land and buildings, shares of domestic companies, and stakes in domestic corporations.
34. Confiscation is limited to exceptional cases such as crimes or unlawful acquisition.
35. “Three generations” means that a non-Japanese who naturalizes counts as the first generation, and only by their grandchildren’s generation is eligibility for public office recognized; this prevents political interference through naturalization.
36. “Military” means a state military organization with the right to wage war and use force, typically divided into army, navy, and air force. The Self-Defense Forces lack war-making rights and focus on minimal necessary defense, so this constitution’s military is defined differently.
37. Military courts handle matters related to the military and soldiers, with the Supreme Court as the final appellate court.
38. “Permanent stationing” means involuntary or consensual continual deployment, excluding temporary training or port visits.

39. The original state is represented by paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article, but realizing it requires phased implementation of defense policies under this constitution.
40. Naturalized citizens must wait three generations as per Article 19, paragraph 4; duties include public interest service and prohibition of information leaks.
41. Specifies concrete time limits absent from the Japanese Constitution.
42. Reflects demands for greater political participation by citizens.
43. The intention is not to exceed 40% of the average citizen's income; statistics show this was first exceeded in 2013 (Heisei 25). Some party policies aim for 35%.
44. Explicitly states constitutional review authority over treaties, which is unclear in the Japanese Constitution.